

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-23 are now pending in the application. Of these pending claims, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, and 19-23 have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 13, and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)(1) as being anticipated by Singh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,385,843 B1).

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 13, and 19-22 have herewith been cancelled.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Signh (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0006321 A1) in view of NPL, eFunda.com.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singh (U.S. Pat. No. 6,385,843) in view of NPL, arrowfastener.com.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singh (U.S. Pat. No. 6,385,843) in view of NPL, eFunda.com.

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singh (U.S. Pat. No. 6,385,843) in view of Korb et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,414,922).

Claims 7, 10-12 and 23 have herewith been cancelled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 14, 15, 17 and 18 are in terms for allowance.

The Examiner also states that Claims 3 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 3 and 6 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Claims 3 and 6 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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